



JAMES CITY COUNTY, VA
HISTORICAL MAP

*Discover
Our
New World*

WHERE AMERICA BEGAN



Visiting James City County

James City County, rich in history, natural beauty and diverse stories, is home to Jamestown, the first permanent English Settlement in the Americas. As the birthplace of American democracy, it is not surprising that James City County is filled with many historic sites that tell the stories of three cultures that shaped our country – Native American, European and African.

This map was designed to help visitors discover the people and places that formed the foundation of Virginia and America. Nestled between Richmond and Norfolk, James City County is home to Jamestown Settlement and Historic Jamestowne (Jamestown Island). The scenic – and historic – Colonial Parkway serves as a link between Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown. Yet off the beaten path, James City County also has significant sites that tell the stories of the indigenous people who occupied the land long before the first settlers arrived in 1607, the blacks who first arrived in 1619, the American Revolution, and the Civil War.

Whether a visitor or resident, this map has something for the history buff in everyone.

For More Information

To plan your visit, check out these area web sites:

www.jccEgov.com

www.visitwilliamsburg.com

www.historicjamestowne.org

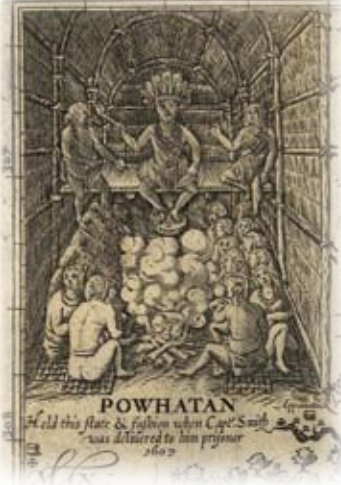
www.historyisfun.org

www.nps.gov/colo



The Cultures of Three Continents

Native Americans



Literally thousands of years before European colonists arrived, an indigenous population inhabited James City County. Over time, the Indians of Tidewater Virginia acquired well developed cultural traditions and established trade networks for the exchange of goods. In 1607 when the first European colonists arrived, Tidewater's

Indians were ruled by Powhatan, a paramount chief, who reigned over 32 districts that encompassed more than 150 villages. The Indians considered land merely a part of the earth, which like the sky, water, and air, was communal and open to all for subsistence. Thus, they couldn't readily understand the European concept of owning land. Both cultures viewed accumulated wealth as an emblem of social status, but had vastly different views of religion.



Europeans

The first Virginia colonists arrived in the Chesapeake Bay in late April 1607.



When they sailed inland, they found magnificent timber, lush vegetation, and an abundance of wildfowl, game, and marine life.

They also encountered the Natives whose homeland they'd entered. On May 13, 1607, the colonists arrived at the marsh-rimmed peninsula on which they decided to establish their settlement. The first colonists built a triangular fort that was

palisaded and had mounted ordnance, for they were keenly aware that they had seated themselves within territory Spain considered hers.

They also needed protection from the Natives, for they had seated themselves within territory that belonged to the Pasbehay Indians. Soon, hunger and infectious diseases began claiming the Jamestown settlers' lives. Shiploads of new colonists arrived but the death toll continued to soar. The winter of 1609-1610, the infamous "The Starving Time," nearly led to the colony's abandonment. Only Lord Delaware's timely arrival in June 1610 led to Jamestown's becoming the first permanent English settlement in the New World.



Africans



In late August 1619 a Dutch frigate arrived at Old Point Comfort with 20-some Africans aboard, men and women who couldn't have known the significant place they would occupy in

American history. The mariners received provisions in exchange for their captives, some of whom were brought up to Jamestown. Three or four days later, another ship left some Africans in the colony. From 1635 on, vessels bearing Africans docked at Jamestown, the colony's official port of entry. Some of these men and women were treated like indentured servants, who worked for a limited time. Others were relegated to de facto slavery, although it had no legal precedent. It was during this period that the Virginia colonists' growing need for hands to cultivate tobacco, the principal money crop, created a severe labor shortage. Many of the Africans were agronomists and knew how to grow tobacco. Others were artisans who had many useful skills. As time went on, the rights of African and African-American workers were stripped away and replaced by chattel slavery.



The American Revolution: Emergence of a New Nation

The “gunpowder incident,” which occurred on April 21, 1775, sparked unprecedented resistance on the part of local citizens. Thanks to Patrick Henry, militiamen from Hanover County gathered at Byrd’s Tavern, in western James City County, where they offered their assistance in resisting the British.

During 1781 combat occurred in several parts of James City County. In April the British fired upon the Americans’ entrenchments at Burwell’s Ferry. They also sailed up the Chickahominy River and set ablaze the Virginia Navy’s shipyard. Part of the British Army crossed the Chickahominy River at Barrett’s Ferry. In June 1781 Cornwallis set out in pursuit of Lafayette, whose strategy consisted of paralleling the British Army’s movements, staying just out of reach. The Allied Army camped at Byrd’s

Tavern, the Chickahominy Church, and Norvelle’s and Cooper’s Mills. Some of Lafayette’s men moved toward Spencer’s Ordinary, where the main roads to Jamestown and Williamsburg converged.

The Battle of Spencer’s Ordinary, which occurred on June 26, 1781, was followed by the Battle of Green Spring on July 7. The British also took possession of Jamestown Island, which had been fortified by the Americans, but abandoned. Hostilities only ceased when the British surrendered at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The French army wintered-over in the local area and withdrew in the following summer.

After the French and British went home, James City County’s citizens tried to rebuild their lives. Some local families were destitute, for they had lost their main breadwinner. Others sought reimbursement for wartime losses or payment for supplies they had furnished to the Allied Army. Relocation of Virginia’s capital city to Richmond resulted in the Tidewater region’s losing political influence. During the War of 1812, British invaders landed on the Peninsula. They also came ashore at Jamestown, where they looted and damaged some buildings.

After a period of stagnation, the economy of the new nation strengthened and took hold. A “Great Rebuilding” occurred throughout Virginia and some new, substantial houses were built in the local area.



Civil War, Recovery, and Change

The shots fired at Fort Sumter, S.C., signaled the beginning of a long, bloody war that sharply divided the nation. Virginia seceded from the Union on April 17, 1861, and soon Richmond became the Confederate capital. Federal troops from Fort Monroe marched into Hampton and Confederate military leaders realized that it was just a matter of time until they would advance up the Peninsula toward Richmond.

Earthworks were built on Jamestown Island and three lines of fortifications were erected across the Peninsula. The westernmost line, whose centerpiece was a large redoubt called Fort Magruder, spanned the heads of College and Queens Creeks. The Union Army assaulted this line on May 5, 1862, the Battle of Williamsburg. Afterward, the Confederate Army quietly withdrew toward Richmond. The local area was occupied by Union troops until the war ended in 1865, but sporadic skirmishes and guerilla warfare occurred.

Long before the Emancipation Proclamation, Union Army General Benjamin F. Butler announced that he wouldn't return runaway slaves,

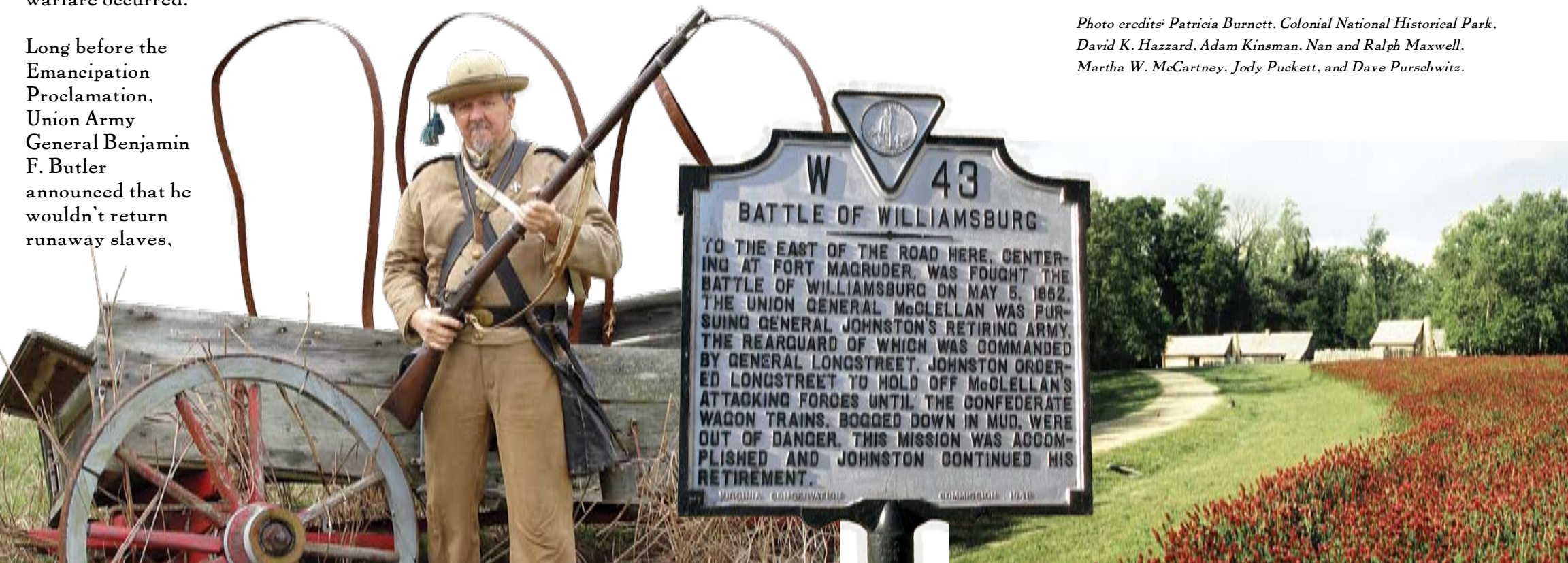
whom he termed "contraband" – Confederate property. As a result, literally thousands of blacks fled to Fort Monroe, taking refuge behind Union lines. When Union troops marched into Williamsburg on May 6, 1862, they were greeted by throngs of cheering blacks.

After James City County became occupied territory, bands of ex-slaves took refuge on the Neck O'Land and at Jamestown Island. The gruesome murders that occurred there in October 1862 reflect some former slaves' pent up resentment of the indignities they had sustained. After the Confederate surrender at Appomattox in 1865, many of the state's 360,000 former slaves lacked food, clothing, shelter and the means to make a living. The Freedmen's Bureau provided assistance by assigning them small plots of farmland they could use for sharecropping. Northern philanthropic groups provided support for education.

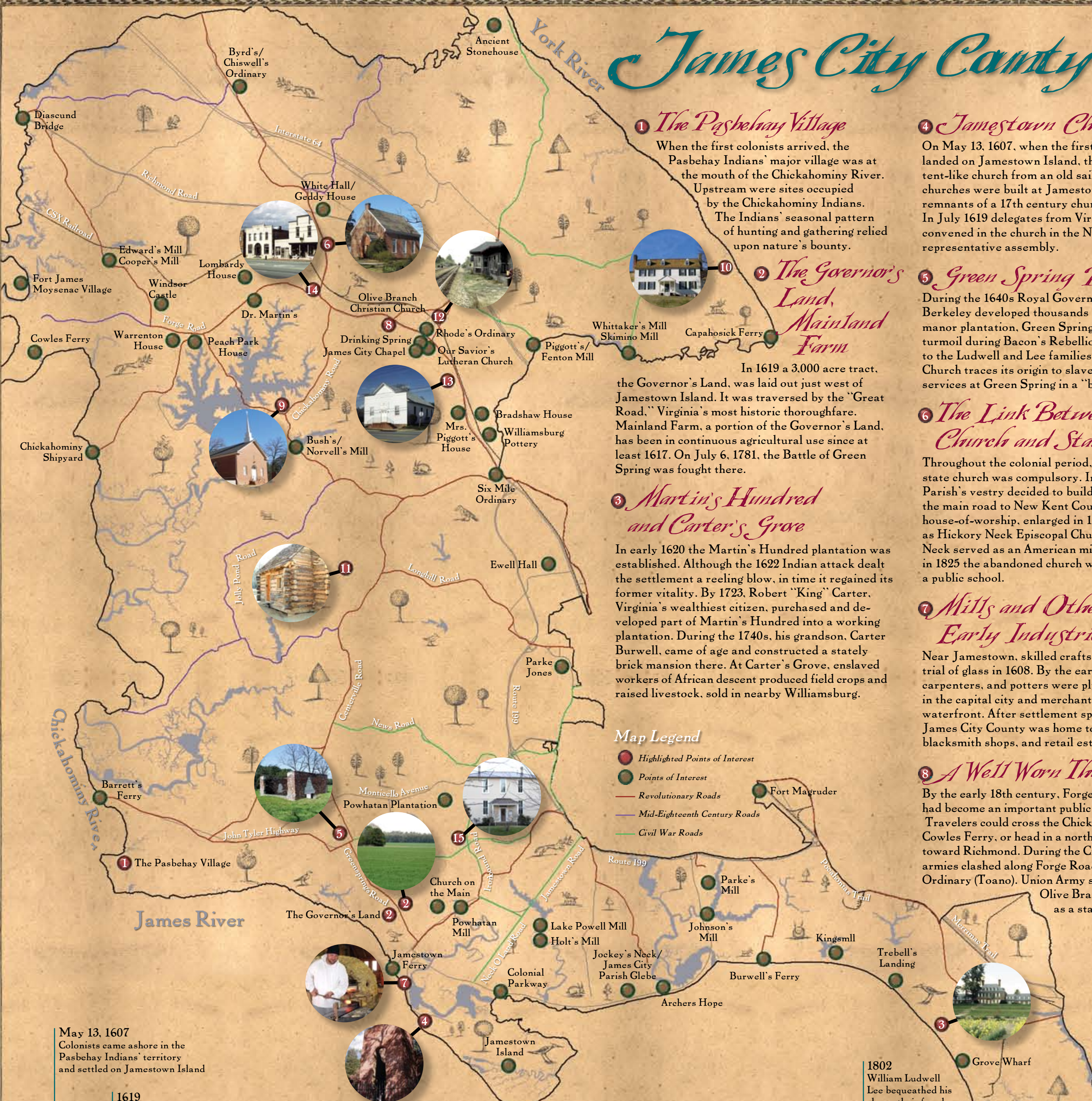
When the Civil War ended, much of eastern Virginia's landscape was devastated. Afterward came the hardship of military occupation and Reconstruction. Throughout the rural countryside, fields were ruined, crops and livestock were gone, and countless homes were damaged or had deteriorated. Blacks and whites struggled to survive and to redefine their roles in society. Abandoned fields quickly sprouted dense vegetation, but local farmers had neither the labor nor the tools to clear it away. Real estate values plummeted, Confederate currency was worthless, and inflation reached an all-time high.

Due to a shortage of able men, much of the work of farming fell to women, children and elderly or disabled men. Throughout the region, rural families shifted to less labor-intensive forms of agriculture. Some local farmers hired black sharecroppers, who elected to stay in the area.

Photo credits: Patricia Burnett, Colonial National Historical Park, David K. Hazzard, Adam Kinsman, Nan and Ralph Maxwell, Martha W. McCartney, Jody Puckett, and Dave Purschwitz.



James City County: Your New World to Discover



1 The Pasbehay Village

When the first colonists arrived, the Pasbehay Indians' major village was at the mouth of the Chickahominy River. Upstream were sites occupied by the Chickahominy Indians. The Indians' seasonal pattern of hunting and gathering relied upon nature's bounty.

2 The Governor's Land, Mainland Farm

In 1619 a 3,000 acre tract, the Governor's Land, was laid out just west of Jamestown Island. It was traversed by the "Great Road," Virginia's most historic thoroughfare. Mainland Farm, a portion of the Governor's Land, has been in continuous agricultural use since at least 1617. On July 6, 1781, the Battle of Green Spring was fought there.

3 Martin's Hundred and Carter's Grove

In early 1620 the Martin's Hundred plantation was established. Although the 1622 Indian attack dealt the settlement a reeling blow, in time it regained its former vitality. By 1723, Robert "King" Carter, Virginia's wealthiest citizen, purchased and developed part of Martin's Hundred into a working plantation. During the 1740s, his grandson, Carter Burwell, came of age and constructed a stately brick mansion there. At Carter's Grove, enslaved workers of African descent produced field crops and raised livestock, sold in nearby Williamsburg.

Map Legend

- Highlighted Points of Interest
- Points of Interest
- Revolutionary Roads
- Mid-Eighteenth Century Roads
- Civil War Roads

4 Jamestown Churches

On May 13, 1607, when the first English colonists landed on Jamestown Island, they fashioned a tent-like church from an old sail. Over time, several churches were built at Jamestown, where today remnants of a 17th century church tower remain. In July 1619 delegates from Virginia's plantations convened in the church in the New World's first representative assembly.

5 Green Spring Plantation

During the 1640s Royal Governor Sir William Berkeley developed thousands of acres into his manor plantation, Green Spring. The scene of turmoil during Bacon's Rebellion, it descended to the Ludwell and Lee families. The First Baptist Church traces its origin to slaves holding religious services at Green Spring in a "brush arbor."

6 The Link Between Church and State

Throughout the colonial period, support of Virginia's state church was compulsory. In 1734 Blisland Parish's vestry decided to build a new church beside the main road to New Kent County. In time, this house-of-worship, enlarged in 1774, became known as Hickory Neck Episcopal Church. In 1781, Hickory Neck served as an American military hospital and in 1825 the abandoned church was converted into a public school.

7 Mills and Other Early Industries

Near Jamestown, skilled craftsmen produced a trial of glass in 1608. By the early 1620s gunsmiths, carpenters, and potters were plying their trades in the capital city and merchants' lots lined the waterfront. After settlement spread inland, James City County was home to grist and sawmills, blacksmith shops, and retail establishments.

8 A Well Worn Thoroughfare

By the early 18th century, Forge Road's forerunner had become an important public thoroughfare. Travelers could cross the Chickahominy River via Cowles Ferry, or head in a northwesterly direction toward Richmond. During the Civil War, the opposing armies clashed along Forge Road and at Burnt Ordinary (Toano). Union Army soldiers used the Olive Branch Christian Church as a stable.

9 Chickahominy Church

During the American Revolution the Marquis de Lafayette's men encamped upon the grounds of the Chickahominy Church, established by the 1720s. In 1865 African Americans erected the Chickahominy Baptist Church's forerunner at the site. The local African-American community has produced some highly influential leaders, including the Reverend Junius Moody and Ms. Eula Radcliffe.

10 Riverview

From the 17th century on, navigable waterways constituted Virginia's main "highways." By the early 1780s William Hankins had developed his York River acreage as Riverview Plantation. During the 1830s, Hankins' grandson, Albert M. Hankins, built portions of Riverview's main house.

11 Free at Last

In 1802, William Ludwell Lee of Green Spring bequeathed his slaves their freedom and authorized them to settle upon the Hot Water tract, a subsidiary farm. This small community grew and persisted into the 1860s. Today, these people's heritage is commemorated at Freedom Park.

12 The Coming of the Railroad

In 1881 when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad (C&O) built a rail line connecting Richmond to Newport News, a flag-stop called Vaiden's Siding (later, Norge) came into existence. Depots were built at Norge, Toano, Ewell, and Grove. Passenger and freight service was established by June 1882. The railroad provided local farmers with access to urban markets.

13 Norge: a Scandinavian Community

In 1896, Norwegian land agent Carl Bergh purchased a farm midway between Toano and Lightfoot. He was convinced that the area's cheap land, temperate climate, and good soil would appeal to the Midwest's European immigrants, who disliked the harsh winters. Between 1898 and 1902, numerous Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, and German families from the Midwest established the community known as Norge.

14 Toano

After the C&O Railroad's tracks extended down the peninsula, the crossroads traditionally known as Burnt Ordinary was renamed Toano. The thriving community was home to a train depot, livery stable, canning factory, and store.

15 Public Education

During the colonial period, few Virginia children had access to education. The Literary Fund, established in 1810, underwrote the cost of educating poor white children. In 1825 an abandoned Anglican church was converted into what became known as Hickory Neck Academy. Public education was not legally mandated until after the Civil War. By 1876 racially-segregated public schools were established throughout Virginia. In 1908 a public high school was built in Toano, and during the 1920s small schoolhouses were built throughout James City County.

Links to the Outside World

From the mid-17th century on, ferries transported passengers across the James, York, and Chickahominy Rivers. During the 18th century, ferries ran from Jamestown Island, College Landing, and Burwell's Ferry to Surry County. They also plied the mouth of the Chickahominy River, crossed at Diascund Creek, and traversed the York River at the mouths of Ware and Skimino Creeks.

Accommodations for Man and Beast

Throughout the 17th century Jamestown, the capital city, had numerous inns (ordinaries) where high-ranking government officials often met to do business. At the close of the century, taverns opened in Middle Plantation and at College Landing. By the 1720s, Forneau's Ordinary, located beside the old road to New Kent Courthouse, began serving the traveling public. The Six Mile Ordinary was located at Lightfoot, not far from Spencer's and Rhodes' Ordinaries. A popular tavern at the junction of Forge and Richmond Roads, destroyed by fire in January 1780, led to the crossroads community's becoming known as Burnt Ordinary, later Toano.

Significant Dates in James City County's History

<p>1600s</p> <p>May 13, 1607 Colonists came ashore in the Pasbehay Indians' territory and settled on Jamestown Island</p> <p>August 1619 First Africans brought to Jamestown</p> <p>July-August 1619 North America's first representative assembly convened in the church at Jamestown</p> <p>1619 Virginia was subdivided into four corporations; one of which was James City County</p> <p>1634 James City County became one of eight original shires or counties</p> <p>March 22, 1622 Indian attack killed nearly a third of the colony's population</p>	<p>1700s</p> <p>September 19, 1676 Jamestown set ablaze during Bacon's Rebellion</p> <p>1721 Chickahominy River became James City County's western boundary line</p> <p>1767 Diascund and Ware Creeks became James City County's newly fixed boundaries</p> <p>1775-1781 British and Allied armies clashed at Spencer's Ordinary and Green Spring</p> <p>1781 British burned the Chickahominy Shipyard</p>	<p>1800s</p> <p>1802 William Ludwell Lee bequeathed his slaves their freedom and provided homes for them at what is now Freedom Park</p> <p>1812-1813 During the War of 1812, the British marched up the peninsula and invaded James City County</p> <p>1857 Jamestown celebration commemorated the first colonists' landing</p> <p>1862 The Union Army marched out of Fort Monroe and seized Williamsburg, at which point James City County became occupied territory</p>	<p>1900s</p> <p>1893 The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) acquired 22½ acres at Jamestown Island where the first colonists settled</p> <p>1907 The nation observed the 300th anniversary of the Virginia colony's founding</p> <p>1932 The U.S. government purchased all but 22½ acres of Jamestown Island and established the Colonial National Monument.</p> <p>1957 The 350th anniversary of Jamestown was commemorated and Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, visited</p> <p>1984 James City County celebrated its 350th Anniversary</p> <p>1993-2000 APVA archaeologists discovered site of fortifications built by first colonists</p>	<p>2000s</p> <p>May 11-13, 2007 400th Anniversary of America commemorated</p>
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